

SERIOUS BUSINESS

Friends drinking Napa
Valley wine & talking
about art were interrupted
by one of the fellas
who blurted out
I wake up every
morning with a
hard-on. That stopped em.
Then one of the ladies
said hell, that's just
a piss hard-on, &
all but one got back
to the serious
business of art.

NICKED

The big C
leveled my dad
in 1973
& a couple
of months ago
fired a shot
in my direction
but luckily
just nicked me
leaving a thin
indented scar above
& to the rear
of my right eye.

COUNT

When he unloads
his revolver he
counts six, then
counts cartridges again.
He checks cylinder
for six holes of light,
closes it up &
locks revolver out
of reach of grandkids.
Grandkids he
only imagines.

ASHES

Pat cooked our dinner,
a wonderful pasta
with scallops & pine
nuts. Afterwards I
cleaned up — putting
uneaten food away
& washing the dishes.
We are in Sierras,
far away from city
fires & violence, yet
we carry indigestible
ashes in our bellies.